

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 DODE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 SAJ-01 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 /073 W

----- 014381

R 061030Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2120

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0392

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR XF

SUBJECT: INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 71859

SECRET

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1. WHILE IN TRIPOLI WE SHARE REFTTEL'S GLOOMY

ESTIMATE OF THE CHANCES OF WAR, WE HAVE ONE GENERAL
REMARK ABOUT WHAT APPEARS TO US TO BE TENDENCY TO
ANALYZE THE SITUATION AS THOUGH IT WERE EXCLUSIVELY
ONE INVOLVING REASONABLE LEADERS MAKING REASONABLE
DECISIONS. IF THIS WERE THE CASE IN MIDDLE EAST,
THINGS WOULD NEVER HAVE COME TO SUCH A PASS.

2. AS WE ARE CONSTANTLY REMINDED HERE, AT LEAST
TWO PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, LIBYANS AND REJECTION-
IST PALESTINIANS, ARE NOT REASONABLE PEOPLE AT ALL.
PRISONERS OF THEIR OWN CHILDISH RHETORIC, THEY ARE
DEEPLY DISSATISFIED WITH THE STATUS QUO IN THE ARAB
WORLD IN WHICH MODERATES HOLD THE BALANCE OF POWER.
THESE MODERATES ARE THEIR MAIN ENEMIES, NOT THE
ISRAELIS. FOR THEM QUESTIONS OF VITORY OR DEFEAT
ARE SECONDARY AND IN FACT AN ARAB DEFEAT WOULD
SERVE THEIR INTERESTS VERY WELL BY DISCREDITING THE
CURRENT ARAB LEADERSHIP. AS A STALEMATE DRAGS ON,
AND WITH TEMPERS RISING ON BOTH SIDES, THE DANGER
REPRESENTED BY THESE ULTRAS OUGHT TO BE
CONSIDERED IN OUR ASSESSMENTS.

STEIN

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NNN

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